

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EUR-25

DRC-01 /103 W

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R 041414Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2155

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MZ, PINR

SUBJ: MAXIMO DIAS AND AFRICAN GROUP FOR PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE.

REF: (A) LISBON 3477; (B) LISBON A-174 OF SEPT. 17; (C) LOURENCO MARQUES 630; (D) LOURENCO MARQUES A-142 OF SEPT. 28.

1. MAXIMO DIAS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL KNOWN HERE. OF MIXED GOAN-AFRICAN ANCESTRY. WAS SERVING AS GOVERNMENT CLERK IN BEIRA AT TIME GOA WAS TAKEN OVER BY INDIA, WHEN HE MADE PRO-PORTUGUESE SPEECH WHICH ATTRACTS SOME ATTENTION. SOON AFTER, WAS GIVEN JOB IN OVERSEAS MINISTRY, LISBON, ENABLING HIM STUDY FOR LAW DEGREE AT LISBON UNIVERSITY. AFTER GRADUATING, DIAS SERVED FOR AWHILE AS PUBLIC ATTORNEY AND PUBLIC REGISTRAR IN VARIOUS PLACES IN MOZAMBIQUE, BUT RESIGNED TO ENTER PRIVATE PRACTICE AND NOW PLANNING SET UP OWN LAW OFFICE IN BEIRA. ALSO LISTED AS ATTORNEY IN INHAMBANE. DESCRIBED AS CLEVER AND ABLE.

2. ALTHOUGH SOME SIMILARITY BETWEEN AIMS OF TWO GROUPS, NO PRESENT INDICATION THAT DIAS OUTFIT CONNECTED WITH JOANA SIMIAO'S AFRICAN GROUP TO WORK FOR PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE.

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MAIN DIFFERENCES IN APPROACH SEEM THAT DIAS GROUP SEEKS

PORTUGUESE ACQUIESCENCE IN CONTACTS WITH FRELIMO, WHILE SIMIAO'S GROUP DOES NOT APPEAR, OPENLY AT LEAST, TO HAVE OR DESIRE PORTUGUESE SUPPORT, AND PROBABLY SEEKING ESTABLISH CREDENTIALS AS PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVE TO FRELIMO AS SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICAN INTERESTS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

3. BOTH GROUPS ARE STILL SO SMALL AND IN SUCH INCIPIENT STAGE THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE THEIR POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE. OF BASIC INTEREST WILL BE ATTITUDE OF PORTUGUESE; WHETHER THEY WILL BE WILLING TO TOLERATE POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF THIS SORT OR SUPPORT IT (WITHOUT STRANGLING IT IN THE PROCESS), OR WILL CONTINUE PAST POLICY OF NIPPING SUCH STIRRINGS IN THE BUD.

VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VAN OSS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731051/aaaablks.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 LISBON 3477, 73 LISBON A-174, 73 LOURENCO MARQUES 630, 73 LOURENCO MARQUES A-142
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAXIMO DIAS AND AFRICAN GROUP FOR PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE.
TAGS: PINT, PINR, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005